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Docket No.: 9988.237.00
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Tamotsu SHIKAMORI et al.

Customer No.: 30827

Application No.: 10/552,962

Confirmation No.: 6684

Filed: December 12, 2006

Art Unit: 1792

For: TILTED DRUM-TYPE WASHING MACHINE
WITH PULSATOR AND METHOD FOR
CONTROLLING THE SAME

Examiner: Benjamin Lee Osterhout

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed January 20, 2010 (Paper No. 20100107), Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I including claims 1-45, drawn to an apparatus and method for a washing machine with a control for a pulsator which brakes and releases said pulsator, for continued examination, with traverse.

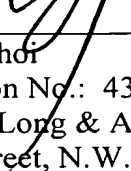
In particular, the Restriction Requirement asserts that Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept because EP 1386995 to Oae et al., ("Oae") discloses a pulsator. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Oae pertains to a top-loading type washing machine which requires a pulsator for agitation of laundry. However, the claimed invention pertains to a front loading type washing machine (a drum type washing machine). Because the drum type washing machine has a lift (3a) formed at an inner surface of the drum for agitation of laundry, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not consider further adding a pulsator. Both Groups I and II recites a drum type washing machine with a pulsator. Accordingly, the Restriction is respectfully traversed.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: February 18, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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